AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An ink tank, comprising:

an ink chamber, formed with a vent port allowing atmospheric air to enter therein and an ink outlet from which ink is taken out;

an optical member, having an ink contact face capable of contacting with ink contained in the ink chamber, the ink contact face including a detection face at which a remaining amount of ink in the ink chamber is optically detected in accordance with an amount of air entered into the ink chamber via the vent port; and

a first ink absorbing member, disposed in the vicinity of the ink contact face, and capable of absorbing the ink in the ink chamber,

wherein the ink chamber includes a first chamber formed with the vent port, and a second chamber provided between the first chamber and the ink outlet, the second chamber containing the first ink absorbing member and the optical member.

2. (Previously Presented) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first chamber contains a second ink absorbing member capable of holding ink therein.

3. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first ink absorbing member is placed at an ink flow passage between the optical member and the ink outlet .

4. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first ink absorbing member is disposed away from the detection face.

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5. (Previously Presented) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a first filter, partitioning the first chamber and the second chamber, the first filter comprised of a first porous material having a first porousness so as to allow ink and air bubbles to pass therethrough; and

a second filter, partitioning the second chamber and the ink outlet, the second filter comprised of a second porous material having a second porousness finer than the first porousness so as to allow substantially only ink to pass therethrough,

wherein the first ink absorbing member has a third porousness coarser than the first porousness.

6. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 5, wherein the first ink absorbing member is comprised of at least one of a foam material and a felt material.

7. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, wherein the optical member is a prism provided with a pair of reflective faces serving as the detection face.

8. (Previously Presented) The ink tank as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a partition member which partitions the second chamber into a bubble storage located in the vicinity of the first chamber and an ink reservoir located in the vicinity of the ink outlet, the partition member formed with an introduction port which introduces ink from the bubble storage to the ink reservoir,

wherein the detection face of the optical member is placed in the ink reservoir.

9. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 8, wherein the detection face is placed in the vicinity of the introduction port.

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10. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 8, wherein the introduction port is located at a corner portion defined by wall faces of either the partition member or the second chamber.

11. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 8, wherein the partition member is provided with pieces projecting into the ink reservoir to retain the first ink absorbing member therebetween.

12. (Original) The ink tank as set forth in claim 8, wherein the partition member defines an ink flow passage extending from the introduction port to the first ink absorbing member via the detection face.

13. (Original) An ink jet printer, comprising

an ink jet print head;

the ink tank as set forth in claim 1, which supplies ink to the ink jet print head via the ink outlet; and

a detector, which optically detects the remaining amount of ink in the ink tank based on a condition of the detection face.

14. (Canceled)

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